



UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, DC 20436

June 6, 2003

TO: Interested Parties -- "Commercial Availability" Reviews

FROM: Jackie W. Jones, Program Manager for
Commercial Availability Reviews
(202-205-3466; jones@usitc.gov)

SUBJECT: New Commercial Availability (Formerly "Short Supply") Review on
Men's and Boys' Shirts of Certain Fabrics

The U.S. International Trade Commission has commenced a review to provide advice in connection with a petition filed under the "commercial availability" provisions of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) on men's and boys' shirts of certain fabrics. The fabrics covered in the petition are classified in the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTS) as follows:

- Fabrics of subheadings 5208.21, 5208.22, 5208.29, 5208.31, 5208.32, 5208.39, 5208.41, 5208.42, 5208.49, 5208.51, 5208.52 or 5208.59, of average yarn number exceeding 135 metric;
- Fabrics of subheadings 5513.11 or 5513.21, not of square construction, containing more than 70 warp ends and filling picks per square centimeter, of average yarn number exceeding 135 metric;
- Fabrics of subheadings 5210.21 or 5210.31, not of square construction, containing more than 70 warp ends and filling picks per square centimeter, of average yarn number exceeding 135 metric;
- Fabrics of subheadings 5208.22 or 5208.32, not of square construction, containing more than 75 warp ends and fillings picks per square centimeter, of average yarn number exceeding 135 metric;
- Fabrics of subheadings 5407.81, 5407.82 or 5407.83, weighing less than 170 grams per square meter, having a dobby weave created by a dobby attachment, of average yarn number exceeding 135 metric;
- Fabrics of subheadings 5208.42 or 5208.49, not of square construction, containing more than 85 warp ends and filling picks per square centimeter, of average yarn number exceeding 85 metric, or exceeding 135 metric if the fabric is of oxford construction (a modified basket weave with a large filling yarn having no twist woven under and over two single, twisted warp yarns);
- Fabrics of subheading 5208.51, of square construction, containing more than 75 warp ends and filling picks per square centimeter, made with single yarns, of average yarn number 135 or greater metric;
- Fabrics of subheading 5208.41, of square construction, with a gingham pattern, containing more than 85 warp ends and filling picks per square centimeter, made with single yarns, of average yarn number 135 or greater metric, and

characterized by a check effect produced by the variation in color of the yarns in the warp and filling; or

- Fabrics of subheading 5208.41, with the warp colored with vegetable dyes, and the filling yarns white or colored with vegetable dyes, of average yarn number greater than 65 metric.

This review is being conducted under the Commission's investigation for all such requests during 2003, investigation No. 332-450, *Commercial Availability of Apparel Inputs (2003): Effect of Providing Preferential Treatment to Apparel Imported from Sub-Saharan African, Caribbean Basin, and Andean Countries*, which was requested by the United States Trade Representative (USTR).

The Commission's review concerns a petition received by the Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements (CITA) on June 2, 2003, from The Consolidated Fabrics Ltd., Socota Textile Mills Ltd., New Island Clothing Ltd., and Aquarelle Clothing Ltd., all of Mauritius; and a U.S. shirt importer/distributor-- Jaysix USA Inc.-- alleging that the subject fabric cannot be supplied by the domestic industry in commercial quantities in a timely manner. The Commission will provide advice to the USTR concerning the probable economic effect on affected segments of the U.S. textile and apparel industries, workers in these industries, and consumers of granting duty-free and quota-free treatment to apparel made in eligible AGOA countries from the subject fabric should AGOA determine that the fabric cannot be supplied by the domestic industry in commercial quantities in a timely manner. The Commission will submit its advice to the USTR in a classified report by July 14, 2003, and issue a public version of the report soon thereafter.

The Commission invites interested parties to submit written statements (original and 3 copies) concerning issues to be addressed by the Commission in this review, by June 25, 2003. Information on procedures for submitting written statements can be found in the Commission's notice of investigation published in the *Federal Register* of February 4, 2003 (68 F.R. 5651) and posted on its website at <http://www.usitc.gov/invfrn.htm#332>.

Further information on this review can be obtained from Robert Wallace (202-205-3458; wallace@usitc.gov). Information on the Commission's commercial availability investigation can be obtained from its Program Manager (see above) and from its website at <http://www.usitc.gov/332s/shortsup/shortsupintro.htm>. Information on commercial availability requests is also available from the U.S. Department of Commerce, which chairs CITA, on the website of its Office of Textiles and Apparel (OTEXA) at (http://otexa.ita.doc.gov/Commercial_Availability.htm).